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Bitter Taunts Hurled

Two Socreds Vote Against Bonner

Sommers Case Aired in House

Two Social Credit MLAs yesterday voted with 12 opposition MLAs to reduce Attorney-General Robert Bonner's salary estimate to $1.

Irvine Corbett (SC, Yale) and Cyril Shelford (SC, Omineca) sided with the opposition in a vote of non-confidence in the government over the handling and delay of the Sommers case by the attorney-general.

WALKED OUT

Last year when the vote on the attorney-general came up Mr. Corbett and Mr. Shelford walked out of the House to avoid voting against the government. At that time Fred sharp (SC, Vancouver East) walked out with them, but yesterday he voted with the government in the House.

Mr. Corbett is the man who put up $24,000 property bail for former lands and forests minister Robert Sommers.

Yesterday's vote came near the end of a four-hour verbal attack on the attorney-general which Mr. Bonner said "dredged up nothing other than previously published information."

"I feel we would have been much better off today if we had dealt with this matter (Sommers case) sooner," Mr. Corbett told the legislature.

"I feel it hardly fair to blame the government for all the delay. I do not think it right for the government to interfere with the process of the courts," he said.

But, he voted against the government.

Mr. Shelford said their vote against the government shows there can be disagreements and still harmony within the party.

VOTE 32 TO 14

The salary-reduction motion, proposed by George Gregory Lib., Victoria), was lost 32-14.

Premier Bennett left the legislative chamber at the beginning of the debate and did not return for 2¾ hours.

Bitterness marked some of the sharp exchanges between Mr. Gregory and the attorney-general.

"I know a little about libel and slander actions and I don't need the attorney-general to tell me about that," Mr. Gregory said. "I think I can say I have won and lost more libel actions than he has ever tried. As a matter of fact, I can't recall that he had any libel actions when he was before the Bar."

SOME FAILED

Later he commented: "I didn't fail my criminal law course and some people in this House did."

Mr. Bonner interjected: "You've failed a number of cases lately. . . ."

Mr. Gregory replied: "Can't you squirm sitting down?"

Referring to a statutory declaration alleging Sommers' guilt, filed in Mr. Bonner's office in 1955, Mr. Gregory asked:

"If the former minister (Sommers) became aware of the statutory declaration only through the attorney-general's report to the cabinet, how then does the attorney-general justify Sommers making use of the information that came to him through cabinet business . . . in a private lawsuit?

NO NEED TO WAIT

"If the attorney-general gave it to Sommers privately, then how does he defend the fact?"

Mr. Gregory suggested the House did not need to wait for the verdict of the appeal court, now hearing an appeal by Mr. Sommers, to pass opinion on Mr. Bonner's competence.

"Does the attorney-general think that the people of B.C. demand no higher standard of their cabinet ministers than they do of pickpockets, thieves and prostitutes?" he asked.

Mr. Bonner said that for several years Mr. Gregory had "made a great point of pursuing personal vindictiveness, particularly in relation to this case.

"With him as a colleague at the bar, what do you really

Continued on Page 11

BULLETINS

VANCOUVER—Nurses in eight Greater Vancouver hospitals have set March 12 as the deadline for a strike to back up demands for retroactive wage increases.

★ ★ ★

EDMONTON—Fire swept a home north of the Edmonton city limits late Tuesday, taking the lives of two members of the Kenneth Johnson family—Shirley, 18 months, and Marlene, seven months old.

★ ★ ★

OTTAWA — Sir Roy Dobson, chairman of the board of A. V. Roe Limited, said his British firm will employ in England as many Roe engineers in Canada as it can get.

★ ★ ★

CELAYA, Mexico—Twenty-seven persons were killed Tuesday in the blazing crash of a passenger bus and a truck carrying whisky. Victims burned to death in alcohol flames.

★ ★ ★

VANCOUVER — Eight aircraft scanned the interior of British Columbia between Prince George and Kelowna Tuesday for a light aircraft carrying Prince George service station operator Charles N. Shields, 40, and his wife, Elizabeth, 38.

Gold Ball May Join Red Lunik

WASHINGTON (UPI) — America's gold-plated Pioneer IV satellite climbed toward a brief rendezvous with the moon yesterday and was confidently expected to join Russia's Lunik in an orbit around the sun.

It was expected to reach the vicinity of the moon at 2.24 p.m. PST, passing within 38,000 miles of earth's natural satellite. The Pioneer's distance at that point would be some 221,500 miles above the earth.

It would have travelled about 250,000 miles at that time, however, because it followed a curving trajectory from the earth.

Don't Miss

Would-Be Drop-Outs Have Hope in School
(Education Series, Page 3)

★ ★ ★

Nyasaland Massacre Feared by Britain
(Page 3)

★ ★ ★

Britain Joins Canada Against U.S. Air Plan
(Page 10)

★ ★ ★

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Hawaii In U.S. Soon?

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Hawaiian bill passed the Senate interior committee yesterday amid predictions that bill to make Hawaii the 50th state would soon come before the full Senate.

That's My Boy!

Beaming proudly, Mrs. G. W. Peakman, 934 Craigflower, watches as her son, Gary, 6, shoots up his hand eagerly for chance to answer question during class at Victoria West School "open house" yesterday. Thousands of parents and other interested visitors will see Greater Victoria schools in action as a feature of "Education Week" here. (See special article on Page 3.)—(Colonist photo)

Ike Invites Him to Washington

Cheerful Macmillan Home With Red Pledge for Talks

MOSCOW (UPI) — Prime Minister Macmillan and Premier Khrushchev ended Anglo-Soviet summit talks yesterday with complete disagreement on Berlin but with a Russian promise of early negotiations to save "peace and security" in the world.

Diplomats here remained pessimistic about the chances of an East-West meeting.

Macmillan flew home in a cheerful mood and announced on his arrival in London he hoped to visit Washington shortly to report to President Eisenhower and "concert our policies." Soon afterward, he accepted an invitation from Eisenhower.

First, he will visit Bonn and Paris next week.

The British and Russian statesmen agreed in a final communique signed in the Kremlin that they would look into a partial East-West troop withdrawal and removal of nuclear weapons from central Europe—a variation of the "atom-free zone" plan of Polish Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki which has been rejected by Washington and Bonn.

Macmillan declined at a news conference before his departure from Moscow to "go into specific details of confidential talks" with Khrushchev. But he confirmed the central Europe pullback plan would be the subject of negotiations.

"Our first duty is to consult our French, German and American friends," he said.

"The problem (of central Europe) must be urgently settled. In these lines there is hope for progress."

★ ★ ★

Mac Coming To Ottawa

OTTAWA (CP) — Prime Minister Macmillan's acceptance of President Eisenhower's invitation to visit Washington is expected also to bring the British prime minister to Ottawa for urgent talks on Germany.

Fat, Funny Costello Dies

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Fat, funny Lou Costello, who with partner Bud Abbott comprised one of the entertainment world's most successful teams, died Tuesday in hospital of his second heart attack in a week.

They made many films together and were voted among the first 10 money-making stars in the Motion Picture Hall of Fame poll from 1941 through 1944, and from 1948 through 1951.

No Approach To Canada

OTTAWA (UPI) — Canada has not been approached on the possibility of an East-West summit conference on Berlin, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker said yesterday.

BILL TO ALLOW LABOR LAWSUITS

New Act Would Outlaw 'Sympathy' Picket Lines

By ALEC MERRIMAN

New labor legislation which will establish trade unions and employers' organizations as legal entities for purposes of prosecuting and being prosecuted for offences against the Labor Relations Act, was introduced in the legislature yesterday.

It means that trade unions and employer organizations will be able to sue and be sued.

But they will not have to incorporate under the Societies Act.

The new act, which will replace the existing Trade Union Act, prohibits trade unions from picketing in anything except legal strikes.

LIMITS PICKETERS

It outlaws sympathy picket lines (sympathy strikes are already outlawed), information picket lines, secondary picket lines calling goods hot, grievance picket lines, customer boycott picket lines and employee boycott picket lines.

First test of the trade unions' right to sue may come if trade unions decide to go ahead and sue the provincial government in connection with use of the Civil Defence Act during last summer's Black Ball Ferry strike. Trade unions would also be able to sue the government if it decides to invoke the Civil Defence Act in connection with the threatened strike of civil servants.

MORE TO COME

Labor Minister Lyle Wicks indicated yesterday that more labor legislation is scheduled to follow, possibly an act to establish a labor advisory council.

The new act also defines the rights of labor unionists to persuade or endeavor to persuade in a legal strike or a lockout. The unions may, in a legal strike, persuade by picketing or other means, anyone not to enter the employer's place of business, operations or employment, not to deal in or handle the products of the employer, and not to do business with the employer.

HALTS PUBLICATION

The prohibition section of the bill will in effect stop publication of "we do not patronize" lists.

It does provide for picketing in the case of an illegal lockout.

For the first time a lockout is described as "including the closing of a place of employment, a suspension of work, or a refusal by an employer to continue to employ a number of his employees, done to compel his employees, or to aid another employer to compel his employees, to agree to conditions of employment."

CURBS INJUNCTIONS

The new act provides that no injunction before trial will be granted ex parte (to only one party of the dispute) by a court to enjoin a trade union, employer or employee in respect of any act relating to a strike or lockout that is not illegal under the Labor Relations Act except to safeguard public order, or to prevent substantial or irreparable injury to property.

An injunction granted on the above conditions will not be for a period longer than four clear days. That is the law now, but it is seldom enforced.

WHO CAN PICKET

The new act restricts picketing to the trade union of which certain members are on strike or locked out and anyone authorized to picket by that trade union.

It makes it clear that breach of the Labor Relations Act or the new Trade Unions Act by an employers' organization, trade union or other person gives rise to an action for damages.

The new act repeals for labor disputes the law of civil conspiracy.

Mr. Wicks said the new bill established equality between management and labor in respect to labor disputes.

★ ★ ★

Employers' View:

Labor Act Hailed But Still Need 'Right to Work'

Management yesterday generally approved the new Trades Union Act, introduced in the legislature yesterday, but some spokesmen felt it did not go far enough.

Both G. Conway Parrott, president of the Victoria Chamber of Commerce, and George Wheaton, regional vice-president of the Canadian Construction Association, regretted the lack of "right to work" legislation, which, in efect, would outlaw the "closed shop."

STILL HOPEFUL

Mr. Parrott said the "right to work" has been a leading theme in all Chamber of Commerce representations to the government. He still hoped this would come.

Mr. Parrott, however, said that the placing of trade unions as legal entities, just as the employers were, was sound procedure.

"In the past we have always been under doubt as to whether a trade union could be sued if it broke its contract," he said.

He also believed that the restrictions on sympathy picketing would be advantageous.

Picketing and the establishment of unions as a legal entity formed part of the labor act changes recommended to the government by the chamber of commerce.

E. E. Pearlman, Q.C., widely experienced in labor-management matters, said that the bill was a step in the right direction.

WELCOME PROTECTION

He said the amendments, particularly with respect to sympathy picketing, would be welcomed as a protection for the public as well as the individual directly concerned.

He described the section making trade unions and employers' organizations legal entities subject to civil suit as desirable and long overdue improvements.

G. F. Pat Dunn, president of the B.C. Chamber of Com-

Continued on Page 3

★ ★ ★

Unionist View:

Act Will Drive Labor, Firms Farther Apart

B.C. Labor Federation president William Black last night charged the new Trade Unions Act "removed beyond any doubt the desire of both government and management to legislate the trade union movement out of existence."

"We believe it conclusively proves that management controls the government," he said.

"We would like to ask the labor minister what exists in this legislation to expedite the settlement of disputes? He has established rules which will drive labor and management further apart," he charged.

FEARS PERSECUTION

Labor federation secretary-treasurer Pat O'Neal said "this gives the employers the lever they require to continually harass, persecute and prosecute the labor unions through the courts on the slightest pretexts."

He charged that the minister had completely ignored labor and had not given labor any prior indication of the legislation.

DOWN THE LINE

"However, it would appear from all reports that the government has gone down the line with management's proposals. They have identified themselves as being one and the same," he said.

Labor unionists have for several months been objecting to any move that would make unions a legal entity which could be sued.

They claim that all the big companies would have to do is keep the labor union in the courts until they are financially broken beyond the union members' ability to pay.

SEEMS RESTRICTIVE

"On the surface this appears to be restrictive legislation," said A. W. Toone, secretary of the Victoria Labor Council. "If that is the case, I couldn't agree with it."

However, he said, he would have to obtain a copy of the bill and study it before he could make definite comments.

See other comment on Page 11.